

Nation



Grand Council Elections Who's your choice?

A large circular graphic featuring a stylized illustration of a person in traditional Indigenous regalia. The person is wearing a yellow and black headdress with a large red question mark on the front. The background of the circle is red with black leaf-like patterns. The person's regalia includes yellow and black elements with purple dots.

?

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The Nation has a healthy harvest at awards gala

by Will Nicholls

Once a year the *Nation* and its team of writers, editors, columnists, photographers, production staff, graphic and web designers, sales people and accountants are judged on the quality of their work. It is truly a team effort that makes the *Nation* possible. As in years past, this year has shown that the *Nation* is a community paper to be reckoned with. In total, the *Nation* brought home 12 Quebec Community Newspaper Association awards from the gala ceremony in Gatineau May 31.

Awarding us 1st Place for Best Special Section, judge Ann Hepburn said she "loved this publication!" She found it well balanced with a positive message and "the content keeps you engaged right to the back cover!"

Martin Siberok took 1st Place for Best Arts & Entertainment Story. The judge said his article was a well-written and concise review of the documentary *Smoke Traders*. "It stands out not only for its added insight into the subject but also for its topical relevance," said Professor Wayne Larsen.

1st Place for Best News Photo went to Lyle Stewart because of the way he captured the depth of passion in the student protest against the Charest government in 2012, and because "it also foreshadows what would happen to the Liberal government."

Stewart was on a roll with another 1st Place for Best Column Writing. Pascale Castonguay from the Association de la presse francophone said his pieces were "well written" with interesting points of view. She felt Stewart showed you could be both "serious and funny."

Daniel David won 1st Place in the Best Editorial (local affairs) category. Judge Professor Davis Swick said his editorial

showed excellent skills that featured a "strong lead" with "language that flows."

Amy German won 2nd Place for Best Feature Story with a piece that looked at homeless Aboriginals in Val-d'Or. Judge and Editor Rankin MacDonald called it, "A story from the streets that gives us pause as we are drawn in with the desperate photo and a story you hope will change things. It calls out to all of us."

I managed to snag 2nd Place for Best Feature Photo. It was of geese being spun in Waskaganish at last year's Grand Council/CRA Annual General Assembly. The judge said, "By resisting the urge to pose the people, the photographer has allowed people to feel they have access to a very interesting space."

2nd Place for Best Business Story went to Jesse Staniforth. The judge found his effort to be "very well researched and written."

Staniforth didn't stop there and added a 3rd Place for Best Education Story to his credits.

Our west coast writer Xavier Kataquapit garnered 3rd Place for Best Column Writing. He was found to be "smart and funny."

Lastly, I saw two 3rd Places for Best Editorial (local affairs) and the Bob Phillips Award for Best Editorial (general). The first found me to be "heartfelt" and "intimate... speaking to one reader at a time."

I feel all of the team here at the *Nation* are winners and it shows not only in these awards but in the dedication and desire we all share in doing the best job possible in ensuring our readers have the best publication possible.

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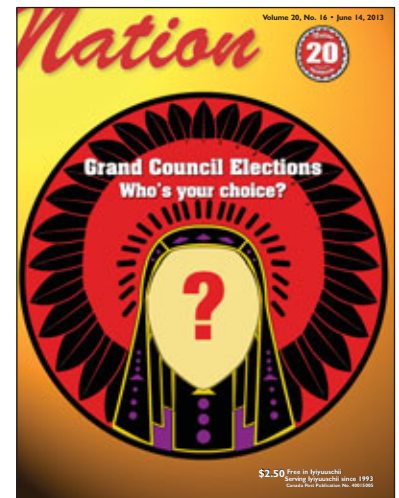
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Exams for all...

by Sonny Orr



If you are a student or parent of one, it's that time of year again. June signifies the annual exam ordeal. I'm not sure who is more excited about the exams, my daughter or me. I recall the old days when I was in a similar situation. A hundred kids or so were at my old high school, nothing compared to today's educational setup, where several schools are needed just to serve all the kids (and adults) for some communities. Exam time always meant some level of anxiety, even for the teachers. Their reputations were also at stake, and they'd slip into nail-biting mode as it came time to assess our efforts (or lack thereof).

Of course, for those whose school days are over, it's time to harvest ducks and greater Canada geese (commonly known as the longnecks) out on the bays or anywhere that's wet. Loons, both common and red-throated, hauntingly call out into calm waters, usually responded to by some hunter with someone strong enough to pluck the notoriously unpluckable common loon.

Back at school, however, furrowed eyebrows are a more common sight. Until, at last, the bell rings of freedom for those who finish their annual tests or rings the death toll for those still chewing on the eraser at the end of a chewed-up pencil. Well, at least it seemed like an eternity for the exam days to slip by before hitting full-time summer mode.

Ahhh, summer's just around the corner and that means graduation parties and

walking-out ceremonies melding together in festive annual rites. For me, it's about fishing and I could go on and on about fishing, but I can see your eyes rolling around already so I'll stick to the subject at hand... Ahh yes, exams: the final frontier...

So, when summer rolls around and you're one of the lucky ones to get a summer job, it's back to the daily grind, that at least pays off every two weeks. If you're good, you get to work all summer long; and all that work earns you a direct pass to autumn. Do not pass Go – go directly to school, though you may pick up your 200 bucks for your sweaty summer efforts.

In some ways I think about how different the world is today. Kids seem to absorb technology so quickly that infants now have their own iPods to teeth on. Our little granddaughter somehow managed to drop my iPad and everything turned pink and streaky, until she managed to repair it on her own by dropping it again, and voila! The colour is normal now.

Now I wonder how a little baby would repair my new phone after dropping it in my teacup. In 16 years, she will graduate, at which point the whole iPod-tablet-everything computer will be merely a curiosity in history class. Perhaps by that time, the school will be brought to you electronically and be some sort of computer built into your home and will only let go when you do all your homework and pass all your exams. Soon...

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An innovative North

Business conference in Amos is full of creative ideas

by Akiva Levitas

In today's fast-paced business environment, remaining stagnant is a surefire way to be left behind. Thanks to the increasing use of the Internet and its available multi-platform tools, creativity and innovation have become the most highly sought skills in the business marketplace.

On a grander scale, innovation in government can lead to a region as a whole prospering in the long term. In the spirit of increasing cooperation and innovation, the Secretariat to the Cree Nation Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance (SAENCAT) hosted 37 speakers at a two-day conference in Amos May 30-31.

The speakers at the event were industry and political leaders who brought to the annual conference, titled Innovation and Creativity: Nordic Development, ways in which local business and communities have met challenges through pioneering means.

"Together let us celebrate this ability of ours to develop new ideas, to be visionary and to develop socioeconomic models adapted to the North, so that we can create a better world and a better place to live," said SAENCAT President



Ted Moses, Ulrick Chérubin, Jean David, Rodney Hester, Claude Major were among the speakers at the SAENCAT conference

Ted Moses. "This is what this conference is all about."

Among the featured guest speakers were Amos Mayor Ulrick Chérubin, Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come and Cirque du Soleil co-founder Jean David. With over 200 attendees, the conference showcased businesses from the nine Cree communities, James Bay, Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Nunavik.

During the conference numerous examples of Cree business success stories were reported, such as the vibrant

growth of Waskaganish as told by Sherman Salt and the Eeyou Communication Network, whose president Alfred Loon and coordinator Louis Lavergne presented their company's success.

The economic achievement of the Cree has not gone unnoticed, with many recent mentions in the national media, which attributed regional success to the unique relation between the Cree and the provincial and federal governments.

"During the last 40 to 50 years, the Crees of Eeyou Istchee made remarkable growth and created new opportunities," said Chérubin. "This was because [the Crees] wanted to work differently and were being creative in finding solutions to resolve the problems they were living in."

Success today depends upon innovation and creative marketing through social media and Internet platforms, in order to penetrate a broader market. In fact, with the speed of viral media, brands can lose their hard-earned reputation or reach new heights in market penetration in a matter of minutes. One



Rodney Hester speaking at the Conference



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From conflict to partnership

Grand Chief celebrates new governance agreement for James Bay

by Jesse Staniforth

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come did not hold back in his description of Bill 42. Speaking in Quebec City on May 29, he described the bill as “legislation of fundamental importance” that will “bring the Cree and the Jamésians together in a real governance partnership and will benefit the Cree, the Jamésians and all Quebecers for generations to come.”

This new legislation, “An Act Establishing The Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government And Introducing Certain Legislative Amendments Concerning The Cree Nation Government,” will implement the Agreement on Governance in the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Territory (“the Governance Agreement”) concluded in July 2012 between the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the Quebec government. It gives Crees an important role to play in the regional government – which Coon Come described as “the first formal partnership in governance between an Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal population.”

Tracing the history of relations between the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and Quebec back to the struggle against Hydro-Québec’s James Bay project in the early 1970s, which led to the creation of the James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) in 1975, Coon Come noted that promises of shared government over the region were never fulfilled, keeping northern citizens from exercising their right to participate in the administration of public services.

Because the promises of a share of regional government administration have not been kept, the Cree people “have been excluded from the governance of Eeyou Istchee.” The Grand Chief argued that this was especially unfair at a time when the Cree Nation is striving for economic growth, as “without the right governance structures, there can be no lasting economic development.”

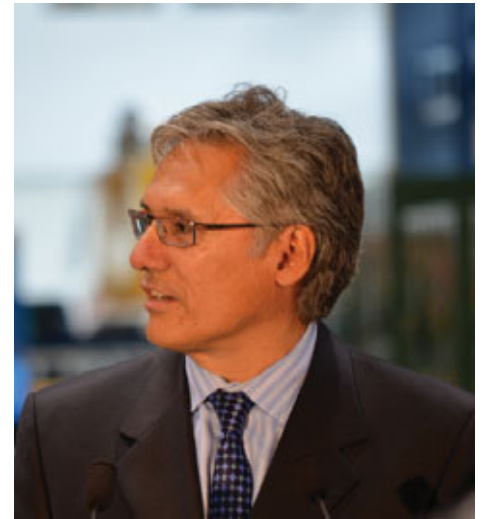
It was the 2002 Paix des Braves that reshaped Cree-Quebec relations. “From one of confrontation and conflict, the relationship has matured into one of cooperation and partnership,” said Coon Come.

Now, the Governance Agreement provides two major opportunities for Cree people to hold greater administrative power over Category II and III lands as identified by the JBNQA. In Category III lands, the Bill calls for the creation of the Eeyou Istchee James Bay Regional Government (as of January 1, 2014), which will “exercise powers under Quebec laws of municipal management, economic development and land and resource planning. It will replace the current Municipalité de Baie-James with a modernized, representative governance institution.”

This new institution will consist of equal numbers of representatives from the Cree Nation and from the surrounding Jamésian communities. The regional government will also act as a de facto regional land and natural resource commission for the area of the Cree territory as well as over the four “enclosed municipalities” of Chapais, Chibougamau, Lebel-sur-Quévillon and Matagami.

Over Category II lands, the Governance Agreement grants Crees “powers under Quebec laws with respect to matters such as municipal government, economic development and land and resource planning and management,” a change that the Grand Chief emphasizes will lead to “greater Cree autonomy on Category II lands.”

One form that this improved autonomy will take will be in municipal government, where the Cree Nation may assert its control over Category II lands in any issue where Quebec law would normally defer to a local municipality or regional county municipality. But at the same time, the Cree Nation government must



create a strategic vision statement and land-use planning and development plan that are “consistent with the policy directions, principles and objectives determined by the Cree Nation government in consultation with the Cree communities and with the approval of the Government of Quebec.” For these reasons, the changes reflect a joint venture of control shared by the Cree Nation and Quebec, with each able to exercise a measure of control over the territory.

Coon Come cautioned, however, against believing that these changes indicated a desire for control by the Cree Nation.

“One concern sometimes heard is that the objective of the Cree in the Agreement on Governance is to ‘take control’ of the North,” said Coon Come. “A variation is that the Cree are seeking somehow to partition the North. But if the Agreement on Governance and Bill 42 show anything, it is that the Cree are seeking to ‘buy into’ Quebec, not to ‘buy out.’ The Cree are seeking, as Aboriginal citizens of Quebec, to participate more fully in the governance of Eeyou Istchee-James Bay.”

Coon Come said that Bill 42 will “allow us to achieve, together, things that we can scarcely begin to imagine today.”

"Level all their tents"

Strateco President Guy Hebert says that the Crees have no say over resource exploitation in Eeyou Istchee because "the Crees sold their rights." Hebert made the comment during Strateco's 2013 shareholder assembly. During the meeting, one investor went even further, questioning whether Crees qualified as Quebecers. "We should level all their tents and get it over with," he said.

Hebert restored order to the meeting and claimed that Crees supported the uranium project but the current problems were the result of a "few activists."

This statement was contradicted by the 93% of those who voted against uranium development during the Special General Assembly in Mistissini. As well, a 2013 poll commissioned by the Canadian Boreal Initiative showed that 77% of Northern Quebecers believe



Strateco should respect the Cree community of Mistissini and not proceed with the project.

The Quebec government has asked the Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement (BAPE) to hold a generic evaluation of uranium mining in Quebec. Strateco's project and others like it are on hold until the BAPE makes its report. Strateco shareholders are frustrated by the delay, especially because Strateco's stock value has plummeted from \$3.78 to 7 cents a

share. The company said it has spent \$123 million developing the exploration project to date and has taken the Quebec government to court over the delays. The company is demanding immediate compensation of \$16 million and a monthly subsidy to keep the company from folding.

On the advice of legal counsel, Grand Council and Mistissini First Nation representatives couldn't comment as they would be joining the court proceedings on June 13 and 14.

Golf Tournaments

With summer approaching and temperatures rising, golf season is in full swing. The following is a list of Cree golf tournaments and benefits that may be coming soon to your local course.

Some of this year's popular spots include Val-d'Or's Club de Golf Belvédère and Club de Golf Chibougamau. The Cree Nation Achievement Awards will return to Mont-Tremblant August 30 for what should be an exciting tournament.

The tournament list is sure to grow in the coming months. If your tournament isn't found below, be sure to contact us with the details so that we can add it to the list.

Quebec Native Women's Seventh Annual Fundraising Gold Tournament

June 14
Caughnawaga Golf Club, Kahnawake
Contact: Jennifer Brazeau
450-632-0088 x 232

Board of Compensation & CREE Golf Benefit

June 20
Club de Golf Belvédère, Val-d'Or
Contact: 418-745-3931

Oujé-Bougoumou Golf Benefit

July 11
Club de Golf Chibougamau
Contact: Randy Bosum
418-745-2519

Cree Nation of Mistissini: Stanley Longchap Golf Classic

July 18
Chibougamau-Chapais Golf Club, Chibougamau

Contact: Ryan Petawabano
418-923-3248 /
418-770-1421

Cree Nation of Eastmain Golf Benefit

August 2
Club de Golf Belvédère, Val-d'Or
Contact: Kenneth Gilpin 819-977-0211

Cree Nation of Waswanipi Golf Benefit

August 22
Club de Golf Belvédère, Val-d'Or
Contact: David Happyjack
819-753-2450

Classique de Golf Abitibiwinini

August 16
Club de Golf l'Oiselet, Amos
Contact: Sally Rankin
819-732-6591

Lac Simon - Tehegan Golf Benefit

August 15

Club de Golf Belvédère, Val d'Or
Contact: Paul-Andre Cheezo
819-736-4501

Cree Nation Achievement Awards & Golf Tournament

August 30
Mont-Tremblant
Contact: John-Henry Wapachee 819-673-2600

Cree Nation of Chisasibi Golf Tournament

September 19
Club de Golf Belvédère, Val-d'Or
Contact: Ronnie Rupert
819-855-2211

Waskaganish First Nation: Albert W. Diamond Golf Classic

September 21
Mont-Tremblant
Contact: Charles J. Hester
819-895-8650

Hebert reassured his investors saying, "I am confident that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Since January, we have concentrated on the legal aspects, but they could be just as profitable as exploitation."

Senate audit is called

Marjory LeBreton, the Conservative government's Senate leader, called for an audit of Senate expenses June 3, two weeks after the Mike Duffy expense scandal broke. After asking for unanimous consent, LeBreton encountered resistance from Liberal and Independent senators. The audit will examine claimed expenses by members of the Senate.

The expenses scandal has placed the Conservative government in an awkward position, as they are usually the ones pointing the finger at government over-spending. On May 9, the Senate released a report of the audit of four senators, which revealed large amounts of improperly claimed expenses. What took the scandal to the next level was the revelation that Prime Minister Harper's Chief of Staff, Nigel Wright, secretly gave Duffy \$90,000 to repay his ineligible claims.

Since then, Wright resigned his position, Conservative party officials have been hounded in the House of Commons and the RCMP has opened an investigation. The Prime Minister eluded reporters throughout the week as the scandal grew when emails between Duffy and a Conservative strategist about

how he should be rewarded for his, as he put it, "expanded role with the party."

Senate ethics officer Lyse Ricard suspended her scrutiny into the \$90,000 payment as she awaits the outcome of the RCMP investigations. There is no telling what will come from this scandal but there is a growing appetite for Senate reform.

Baribeau named President of CCDC

The Cree Construction and Development Company Ltd (CCDC) has appointed Robert Baribeau as President and CEO. Baribeau has been with the company since 2001, most recently serving as Executive Director of Construction Operations. Baribeau replaces William Macleod, who is retiring.

"I am excited to take on the role of President and CEO of CCDC and to build on one of CREECO's great brands," Baribeau said in a press release. "With the demand for more community infrastructure and with the natural resource development projects happening in Eeyou Istchee, I am confident that we will continue to grow and prosper in strong partnership with our existing clients and with our potential new clients and partners as we move into the future."

Macleod will be leaving the CCDC after 11 years at the helm. "It was a great

opportunity working with CCDC these past 11 years and I wish Mr. Baribeau and CCDC continued success into the future," he said.

Crime Stoppers gets Cree green light

Eeyou Eenou Police Director Reggie Bobbish is bringing the Crime Stoppers prevention service to Eeyou Istchee.

"The program will work with the general public and police collaborating to fight crime in our communities," said Senior Officer Jim Hester. "By refusing to close your eyes to crime, you contribute to eliminating acts of intimidation and violence, thus protecting your quality of life and that of your fellow citizens."

According to Hester, the service will especially aim to fight drug trafficking in the North. Calls to Crime Stoppers are always anonymous and the service can be accessed at any time. People with information are invited to contact 1-800-711-1800

Correction

The *Nation* would like to mention that in our article on the Traditional Cree Fishing and Chisheinu Chiskutamaachewin Project printed in Vol 20-10, the Project's sponsors were not named. The Project members would like to thank Niskamoon Corporation and the Cree Nation of Mistissini for their support.



Grand Council Elections

Further down the campaign trail....

by Amy German

It's official! The nominations for the positions of Grand Chief and Deputy Grand Chief have been posted and the election race is on.

Contesting this year's race for Grand Chief are incumbent Matthew Coon Come, current Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff and former CREECO/ Board of Compensation head Jack Blacksmith.

The list is much longer however for those running for Deputy Grand Chief: Robert Kitchen, Kenny Loon, Rodney Mark, Linda Lillian Shecapio, Virginia Wabano, Bertie Wapachee, Christopher Napash and Roger Sandy.

This year's advance polls will be held Thursday, July 11, between 9 am and 6 pm. Election-day polls are open at 8 am on Monday, July 15, and close at 7 pm.

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Only Cree beneficiaries of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement can vote in this election and they have to be at least 18 years old as of July 15, 2013. To vote by mail inquire with the Chief Electoral Officer Lawrence Jimmike (see the advertisement on page 14 for more info).

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This issue features interviews with Jack Blacksmith, Rodney Mark, Kenny Loon and Bertie Wapachee.

Please note that all of the candidates were asked similar questions in order to give each an equal opportunity to provide his perspective on the same issues.

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This issue features interviews with Jack Blacksmith, Rodney Mark, Kenny Loon and Bertie Wapachee.

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Jack Blacksmith Grand Chief candidate

Jack Blacksmith: I am 57 years old and was born on November 3, 1955, on a cold fall day on Lake Opemiska, on the Blacksmith hunting territory.

I survived residential school and was there for seven years. I have worked all over the Cree First Nation of Waswanipi as I started back in the early 1970s. I also worked for the Grand Council as a beneficiary clerk as well as for the band in Mistissini as an Economic Development Agent.

I worked for the Grand Council in Ottawa as well as for the band in Waswanipi and I also represented Waswanipi on the Board of Compensation, where I worked as a board member for many years before becoming the Vice Chairman back when Rod Pachano was the Chairman. Then, in December 2007, I became chair. My first term was for two-and-a-half years and then I did a second one for another four years.

I have done a lot of other things on the BOC, working at the regional level and when I was Coordinator of Special Projects for the Grand Council in Ottawa. This included working with the bands on the many issues they were facing, including housing and operations.

So, I have had fairly good experience in terms of what I would like to do as Grand Chief and I think my experience will help the Cree world.

The Nation: Why do you want to run?

I want to do more for my people. Various different people in the Cree Nation have approached me and they feel that their issues are not being properly addressed. This goes especially for the youth.

I want to do something special for the people and give back power to the people when it comes to decision making for the future and the well being of the Cree Nation overall.

I think I can really work well with the people because I know how to pass on information and I am not going to be the one to tell them what to do, though I will be part of the process of trying to find better ways and better things for our people.

What can you do for the Cree Nation that others can't?

I think that I have newer and fresher ideas and better ways to work with the people. I think that our current government is already very set in place in terms of how they want to do things and I think that I can bring some changes in the direction of the Cree Nation.

I won't do away with what has already been achieved but I would like to make the people understand that they are the power.

I also think that if you consider what the people's needs are and trying to be a player in that process, I think what you have to do is you have to let the people be in on all levels of discussion to try and give direction to anything we decide on.

I will not allow someone to just sit in a corner and draft something and then tell the people that this is it. That is not my style. My style is going to be very much in consultation with the people so that I can feel good at the end of the day knowing that whatever I am doing is something that our people have looked at, thought about and has come together from that.

Education is a big issue in the Cree Nations as is the fact that many Crees have lower reading levels or have dropped out of school as a result of their struggle. How



Jack Blacksmith

would you address education for both the youth and adults who need it?

One of the things that we have to come to realize is that education is very important to us. We have said to our youth that they are going to be our future leaders.

When it comes to this, I think our people need to be more educated professionally in terms of what they want to accomplish and I really do believe that the Cree School Board is probably on their way to doing that. But, they do need to find ways to improve and to do things better.

At the recent Roundtable discussions that took place in March, the focus wasn't so much on education but what is available to our young people. I spoke to a few young people there who said that they were quite happy with what they had access to compared to what many First Nations get in terms of education.

But, I think we need to tweak some stuff in terms of our long-term goals and what we want to do at a local level because I know that there are a lot of problems with education when you get to the lower ends. This is where our people get into trouble in terms of coming through the college and university level because they don't have the prerequisites when it comes to things like language.

The Cree School Board realizes these things and they have been tweaking their programs to help our young people when it comes to getting up to the provincial standards.



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What would be your plan to stimulate the economy in Eeyou Istchee?

The Grand Council/CRA did a study a few years ago and while I don't know whether it is being used, I always talk about it because it is something that we can use. Within it there was a real indication in it on what we can do to supply jobs. The numbers are clear in it.

Yet, I have not seen anyone come out and say that these are the jobs that I need to create. I think what we have to do is that we have to start training our people.

The mining sector has been slowing down a little bit recently and so this is now actually a great time to teach our people the mining skills that they need. Same thing goes for forestry. There is a slow down in our territory and so we can push the skill learning so that they can get these jobs.

There is a lot of development that is going to happen in on Cree territory and for us to be able to access these jobs, training is a must. This is what we really should be embarking on, training programs so that they can get all of the necessary certification and then work wherever they please.

I really think that if you consider those numbers, we really have to work hard to gain the jobs that are out there.

Maybe we should make an employment target, like for however many jobs created, 50 percent of them should go to Crees. This is something that isn't far-fetched either because of the amount of unemployed youth we have in our communities.

Those people are looking for work and once you give people a chance in terms of jobs they are often very, very good employees. They work hard and they prove to the people that they are capable of doing any jobs that are available to them.

So training is very important to us, we should start training our people immediately.

Is there anything that you would like to see happen for the health of the Cree Nation, given that there is still a diabetes epidemic happening and many are also suffering from other illnesses related to obesity?

I am a diabetic though not an advanced one. I take pills for it every day. I am really glad that I have not found myself plugged into a machine yet but this is one of the things that we really need to consider.

When my mother got sick, she wanted to go back to the woods, where she came from. A lot of Crees are like that. But, what do we do? We send them to Montreal.

My mother had never even been to Montreal before she got sick.

These are the kinds of things that we really need to look at. For our people to be able to heal properly, we have to put them into environments that they like, where they are comfortable and that they can appreciate so that nature can take

its course to help heal them. This is something we really need to be discussing in terms of the Cree Board of Health.

I am part of the BOC and we have been discussing the possibility of building a place in Montreal to keep Crees together while they are healing or seeking treatment. Keeping our people together would be helpful.

One of the things that I would do as part of the government is to show respect for those who have been working in these fields and listen to them because they have been doing their jobs for years and I would be coming in to learn the whole situation, whether it comes to education, health, the trappers' association, the Elders, the women or the youth. I have to learn from them when comes to the issues that are important to them so that we can be a force in terms of being a regional government and trying to meet their mandate.

"I WILL NOT ALLOW SOMEONE TO JUST SIT IN A CORNER AND DRAFT SOMETHING AND THEN TELL THE PEOPLE THAT THIS IS IT. THAT IS NOT MY STYLE."

This has been an era of intensive negotiations between the Crees and different levels of government. How would you carry this on and keep running with that torch?

For sure, this has been an era of intensive negotiations for the Crees. The new provincial government has just announced their new plan for the north but we have to be part of this process. We will not stand on the outside and allow development to happen without us.

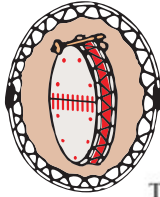
We have our rights and our agreements and every Cree has their rights on this territory when it comes to how they will face development within their trap lines.

So I think that to continue this process I will have to go into the communities without a completed document and just continue to discuss development to get what the people want to do and how they want to face this.

We want to understand Whapmagoostui's perspective on further hydro development. I understand that they said that there would be no more hydro development but I want to understand a little bit more directly from them.

I also want to understand Mistissini's position on uranium development. Is there a ban or is it a moratorium? I want to understand this and the whole issue. I want to understand what each community is facing, especially when it comes to mining projects. I want to understand all of this and have a common understanding on how we are going to tackle these issues.

So, once we have that, these would be my marching orders from our people on how to advance our people and what is going to happen in our territory.



PUBLIC NOTICE



Candidates for the offices of GRAND CHIEF/CHAIRPERSON and DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF/VICE-CHAIRPERSON

To all Cree Beneficiaries (Eligible voters 18 years and up) of the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the Cree Regional Authority.

Take notice that the CANDIDATES for the offices of Grand Chief/Chairperson and Deputy Grand Chief/Vice-Chairperson of the Grand Council of the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the Cree Regional Authority are as follows.

GRANDCHIEF/CHAIRPERSON

JACK BLACKSMITH
MATTHEW COON-COME
ASHLEY ISERHOFF

DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF/CHAIRPERSON

ROBERT KITCHEN
KENNY LOON
RODNEY MARK
CHRISTOPHER NAPASH
ROGER SANDY
LINDA LILLIAN SHECAPIO
VIRGINIA WABANO
BERTIE WAPACHEE

The qualification for eligibility to vote in the elections is as follows:

- To be a Cree beneficiary of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.
- To be of the age of majority at the date of the elections (18 years of age on July 15, 2013).
- Not to be affected by any legal incapacity.

THE SCHEDULE FOR THE ELECTIONS IS AS FOLLOW:

ADVANCE POLLS: Thursday July 11, 2013
Polling Hours – 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

ELECTIONS: Monday July 15, 2013
Polling Hours – 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

An elector who wishes to vote by mail may request a mail-in ballot from the office of the Chief Returning Officer.

Inquiries or requests for further information should be addressed to the Chief Electoral Officer.

Lawrence Jimiken: Chief Electoral Officer
Nemaska First Nation
32 Michistaayau
Nemaska, Quebec
J0Y 3B0

Tel: (819) 673-2512 ext. 204
Cell: 819-865-7094
Fax: (819) 673-2542
E-mail: lawrjimi@hotmail.com

Give me an example of an issue you have championed and how?

During my time with the BOC, while we don't have a lot of money to disperse, but we do when we can.

I think the issue regarding the youth; we have done pretty well for the youth in terms of the money we give them. Last year we gave them grants for their administration and we also gave them a segment of additional monies for business opportunities.

I think this is something that we really have to work with. I keep saying that they are our future leaders. Why would we not try to make programs or assistance available to them to see more what they can do?

If our future leaders learn more as young people they will be better leaders for us tomorrow.

The other issue that I have really championed has been economic development. I have travelled this country, telling people who we are and what we do. There is a lot of admiration out there for the Cree people in terms of what we have done for economic development.

I think that we just have to keep moving forward, always keeping in mind that we have to always protect our rights.

"IT'S ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT COMMUNITY ISSUES FOR ME AND THIS WOULD BE THE BASE OF MY LEADERSHIP. WE NEED TO REINFORCE THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY AND MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES STRONGER."

What can you do at the helm of the Cree Nation that currently isn't being done?

Listening.

Rodney Mark
Deputy Grand Chief candidate

Wemindji Chief Rodney Mark is wrapping up an eight-year term serving the people in his community. He also served as Deputy Chief in Wemindji for six years.

In his early 20s, Mark served as Youth Chief for his community for three years. He attended Heritage College and then Carleton University, where he studied philosophy.

The Nation: Why do you want to run?

Rodney Mark: This is good platform for me to talk about the issues. After 14 years of local politics, I thought it would be important for me to discuss what I think is important, such as community economics, community development, environment, health and education.

These are issues that I feel we need to make priorities as a Cree Nation. There are also other issues I would like to look at, in particular, drug trafficking in the communities.

We need to be hard on this issue as this is something that happens a lot. It doesn't take much however for there to be a major ripple effect in a community.

There is also the justice process we have implemented, I would like to see this go further, take an extra step to make sure that those people who have committed crimes in our communities are held accountable. This is how our justice agreement was envisioned.



Rodney Mark

HAPPY ABORIGINAL DAY TO ALL
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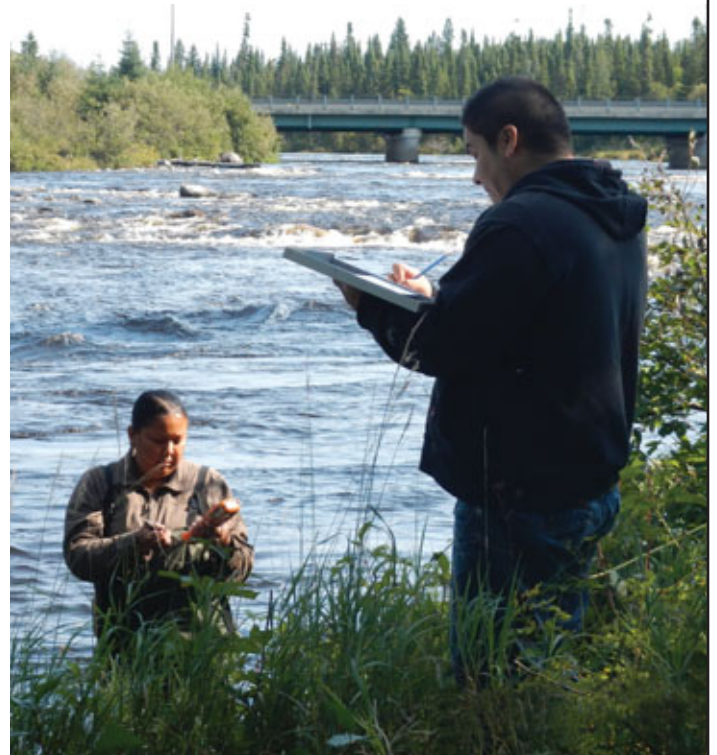


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I believe that people who commit criminal acts should be put somewhere and be held accountable to someone as it almost seems like drug trafficking has been seen as a victimless crime but it really victimizes a huge amount of people.

I also want to address mining; this is an issue that needs to be pushed in terms of jobs. I don't think we are in a position anymore where we have been fighting for them. I think that the previous leadership was quite successful at that but now we are just fighting for jobs for Cree people within the resource development.

Housing is another issue. I think we need to deal with this home-ownership program as I really believe that this is something we have to make a priority.

What can you do for the Cree Nation that others can't?

I have been community Chief for eight years and Deputy for six and we have been able to successfully implement a housing program here.

It's always been about community issues for me and this would be the base of my leadership. We need to reinforce the importance of community and making our communities stronger. I want to engage people when it comes to community development, economic development, environment, health and education. Those are the five priorities that I have.

These need to be our priorities at a local level and at a regional level.

What are your thoughts on education, particularly when it comes to addressing reading difficulties among the people and the dropout rate?

I think the most important thing is that we have got to start out very early. We have an afterschool program here in Wemindji called COOL: Challenging Our Own Limits. Within that we have a reading program. I believe that we have to start out early to get those things going.

How do you see yourself contributing to Cree economic life as Deputy Grand Chief?

Well, I think one of the most contentious issues with the Cree Development Corporation and the way it was set up was that this was the wrong approach, going at it from top to bottom.

I felt that we should have gone to the people involved in economic development. Every community has an economic development corporation and I would ask them what they would need. There is a mechanism here that would help to empower communities.

At the end of the day what an individual that wants to own a business needs is collateral and we don't have collateral in the communities. I think that the Cree Development Corporation could play that role. But, this is through consulting with the local offices and corporations as well as Chiefs and Council to see what they can make happen.

If you want to set up businesses in the communities you will need infrastructure but we have no infrastructure, this is the challenge.

How would you address the health of the people in terms of the current diabetes crisis and other illnesses stemming from obesity?

I think that this is something that needs to happen on an individual basis. I think that we have been doing a lot of collective stuff to promote health, but I think the approach needs to be more to say that ultimately you are responsible for your own health in terms of being healthy and taking care of yourself.

My vision, ultimately, is to have clean, safe and healthy communities as this will attract families and businesses.

This has been an era of intensive negotiations between the Crees and the province as well as others, how would you support the Grand Chief in this area?

I have been involved in one negotiation and so I have seen the process. Whatever plan the Grand Chief would have I would try to add value to.

If I disagreed on something I would also express that but at the same time I would ensure that there would be a united front there as that is one of the key things.

Give me an issue you have championed and how?

I am leaving being Chief in good faith because I think that it is time for me to continue and move on to other things. I just feel that it is time.

There are files that I have worked on such as in environmental protection for 12 years and no matter what job I am in I will continue on this.

We also have our after-school program that I saw through from the time I was Deputy. I will take some time off from this but I saw it through and I still plan to participate in that because I really believe in literacy and this is a priority.

"I UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO PROTECT, PROMOTE AND ADVANCE ABORIGINAL RIGHTS AND IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THESE RIGHTS ARE PROTECTED AND RECOGNIZED UNDER SECTION 35 OF THE CONSTITUTION ACT."

These are not just career commitments; these are life commitments.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I have a five-point plan for the communities: community development, economic development, environment (this is an area

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I have been working on for the past 12 years), education and then health.

I think the idea is to have a theme here. I want to have clean, safe and secure communities because this is what is good for families, children and businesses and what also attracts investments.

What can you do at the helm of the Cree Nation that currently isn't being done?

One of the challenges is to engage the people, whether it is through recreation or sports programming, economic development, capital projects and also through the justice process. We have to engage the communities at this point and this is one of the priorities we need to look at.

Kenny Loon
Deputy Grand Chief candidate

He may be a legal eagle now, but Mistissini's Kenny Loon actually started out as a photographer and a journalist after his studies at Algonquin College and at York University. Loon worked on a number of projects for the CBC, the National Film Board and a variety of First Nations magazines across Canada. This work sparked his interest in treaty law.

After attending law school at the University of Ottawa and earning his Master of Laws from the University of Arizona, Loon was called to the Ontario bar in 1996. Since switching fields, much of his work has been in negotiations with the federal government. Loon has worked for several bands, organizations and entities within and outside the Cree Nation, and for the Assembly of First Nations.

The Nation: Why do you want to run?

Kenny Loon: I think that the Crees need somebody who has the legal training to understand all of these different issues that affect their Aboriginal and treaty rights and in this case, Cree rights and interests. I sometimes feel that these non-Cree lawyers sometimes don't tell the Cree leaders everything that may have a negative impact on Cree rights and I have actually seen this happening before.

I think that a person needs to have some legal understanding of the impacts that some of these rights on the Cree and I think that a person needs to be able to work with the Grand Chief as he carries the Cree Nation agenda. And also to be able to explain to the people in the communities some of the legal implications that would have an impact on them. You can't have someone without legal training to try and explain some of these legal situations to the Crees and so I really think that I can be useful in this way.

I also think that the Deputy Grand Chief should be someone who goes into the communities more often than the Grand Chief does because the Grand Chief is very busy. I think the Deputy should be the person doing the grassroots works

with the people and be there to get to know them and be available to them.

What can you do for the Cree Nation that others can't?

I understand what it means to protect, promote and advance Aboriginal rights and it is very important that these rights are protected and recognized under Section 35 of the Constitution Act. The governments must also be reminded that we have these rights that are protected under the



Kenny Loon

Canadian constitution and that they can't try to diminish the exercise of those rights. We need someone that will keep reminding the government that we are here in fact to protect those rights and our Cree way-of-life and that we will not allow them to continue to damage the environment.

At some point we need to get a land-management plan in place to protect further erosion of our environment and wildlife and I think that the person doing this needs to understand from a legal point of view how these potential laws and legislations that the government has proposed would have a negative impact on the Cree way of life and Cree rights.

What are your thoughts on education and the Cree people?

While I am not tremendously familiar with the education system up in the communities as I live in the south, I do hear a lot about it and of that I get the impression that the current system isn't working.

Maybe what needs to be done is have a Cree Education Act developed that incorporates Cree values, Cree teachings



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and Cree history. If Cree youth know their history they will be interested in the education system.

I also think that the parents need to play a big role in a child's education if they want them to succeed. It is so important that we be well educated if we want to achieve the objectives of Cree self-governance. These youth will one day be our future leaders and so it is very important that they are not only well educated but also well versed in their language and history and also get a good, formal education.

Once we have our own people well educated, I think the leadership will then have the confidence in their own people to use them instead of the non-Crees to run our own affairs.

How would you help stimulate Eeyou Istchee's economy?

As we move towards Cree self-governance, we need to understand that we can't rely on government handouts for small economic development projects. I think that the Crees need to develop a comprehensive approach and we need to look at how we can generate revenues within the communities rather than having money come in, only to see it go right back out.

We have always had a problem with outside contractors coming in instead of utilizing the services that we already have in place. I see these construction companies come in and with them they bring their own people, down to their own cooks to make their own food.

Any money we get from the government goes right back out of the communities and so we need to change this approach and try and find ways to generate money in the communities and part of this is giving our local contractors and businesses more opportunities.

How would you address the health of the Cree Nation?

Obviously we have a very alarming rate of diabetes in the communities. Part of the problem is that people don't watch what they eat and they don't exercise, so the communities have to come up with some kind of a fitness program.

Also there is too much fast food in the communities. Not only do people need to learn about exercise, they also need to learn about healthy eating habits.

I hear that traditional food is very good for our people and so I would like to see things like traditional foods like goose, moose and fish made more available to the people, particularly those who don't hunt. We need to set up something so that people can share more of this stuff instead of selling it to people.

This is one of the Cree traditions that has been lost, the sharing part of things. We need to bring this back.

This has been an intensive era of negotiation between the Crees and governments. If elected, how would you support the Grand Chief in this area?

As a Cree lawyer I know the importance of protecting the rights of the Crees. This is one of the ways that I can help the Grand Chief.

As a lawyer, I know the importance of protecting, advancing and promoting Aboriginal treaty rights. And, that in any agreement or negotiations taking place, whatever we agree to should not diminish the exercise of these rights in order to get something back in return.

We have already given up too much and I think it is time that we protected those rights.

To me, whenever we have a non-Native lawyer negotiate, they are forgetting that important aspect of Cree rights because they are not his rights. They are way more interested in getting an agreement signed and fast tracked without realizing that in going this route they may compromise or diminish the exercise of certain rights.



Bertie Wapachee



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- 4) Encouraging local economic spin-offs to various businesses as pertains to the company's requirements;
- 5) Ensuring the visibility of Cree projects;
- 6) Developing partnerships with other Cree enterprises on a smaller scale to ensure continuity;
- 7) Ensuring profitability to its shareholders.



*Celebrations and pride are the order of the day
for National Aboriginal Day.*

[illegible]

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What can you do at the helm of the Cree Nation that isn't currently being done?

It is important that we work together as a nation. I know that, recently, the current Deputy Grand Chief and Grand Chief have not been working together as a team. I don't know if it is a clash in personalities or somebody has a different agenda but it is very important that we work together as a nation and have regular meetings between the two.

Bertie Wapachee **Deputy Grand Chief candidate**

Currently living in Chisasibi, the Nemaska-born Bertie Wapachee has worked in both politics and business while advocating environmental protection.

Previously involved with his local youth council and then at the Cree Nation Youth Council (CNYC) – where he served as Youth Chief for three years in the 1990s – Wapachee is no stranger to the political arena.

Wapachee also served as Chairman of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay from 1999-2003, when he says he played a critical role in the ongoing negotiations for the Cree Health Board.

The Nation: Why do you want to run?

Bertie Wapachee: I have been missing the political arena for some time now but more so in this last year. It has been awfully quiet out there and I think that there is a lot that people need to hear and a lot of questions that need asking, particularly at a regional level.

There are also a lot of things that I would like to be involved in – one of them being the development of the territory. It is going to be very important to have our own strategy to ensure that every resource isn't extracted or developed so that in 10 or 20 years down the line there is nothing left.

What we really need is our own development plan to make sure that nothing happens all at once and to make sure that the environment is being respected at the same time.

We as a nation are not schooling ourselves enough on the agreements that we have signed and on the subsequent modifications that have made to these agreements. These are an important part of our history as a people.

In 2011, I gave a presentation to the CNYC on a concept of youth leadership training. This would include developing a training that is geared towards the youth learning about the previous agreements that the Crees have signed.

Since then I have expanded on the idea so that one day we would see a specific curriculum taught on this issue from elementary school right through until high school. There could also be college or university programs on this for people interested in getting into community politics or First Nations governance or even law.

This is an area that we are really lacking in right now and I think it accounts for a lot of the quiet out there.

What can you do for the Cree Nation that others can't?

I really don't like to just sit back and let things happen when there could have been questions asked or concerns raised. I am not afraid to get my feet wet!

When it comes time to asking questions or voicing a concern, this is one of my strengths; there is no subject matter that I am afraid of and I have learned enough out there not to shy away from a debate.

Give me your thoughts on an issue like education in the Cree nation. There are many Crees with low reading levels or who have dropped out, how would you address education for the Cree youth? Adults?

I really don't want to have a group from the outside develop any kind of program for us.

We need to develop a long-term strategy on education to ensure that the education level amongst our people goes up and we have better student outcomes in the long term, but the answers here need to come from within the Nation. I don't think we are using our own professionals enough.

"WHEN IT COMES TIME TO ASKING QUESTIONS OR VOICING A CONCERN, THIS IS ONE OF MY STRENGTHS; THERE IS NO SUBJECT MATTER THAT I AM AFRAID OF AND I HAVE LEARNED ENOUGH OUT THERE NOT TO SHY AWAY FROM A DEBATE."

There is too much infighting on who is right and who is wrong when the main thing should just be educating our future. Clearly there is still a lot of work to be done to come up with a better strategy in getting young people interested in education again. As of now, we are not really seeing that spirit of wanting to learn and all of that new technology that is out there has taken the desire away from our youth to want to read books. Instead they want to spend all of their time with their iPads.

What if we instead use the technology that is there to promote reading through their iPads or whatever other devices they are using.

How do you see yourself contributing to Cree economic life?

This is an area that I have come to know pretty well. I think that this area has also been tied up too long at a political level.

At some point our nation is going to have to separate the politics from business. If you are a policy maker, then you are a policy maker and if you want to go into business then you are most likely going to need to get the support you need from politicians.

[illegible]

Every community now has the opportunity to do something great. It shouldn't be just a nation focusing on economic development to be a self-reliant nation but the community should also have the opportunities to do the same. The room is there and communities can invest in anything they so choose. This is an area that will surely need improvement in the coming years.

"IT IS BASICALLY ABOUT REPRESENTING THE GRASSROOTS. NOBODY SHOULD BE FORGOTTEN AND EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE REPRESENTED AT ALL TIMES."

Is there anything in particular that you would like to see happen in terms of the health and well-being of the Cree Nation, particularly in light of diabetes and other obesity-related diseases that are currently at an all-time high in the communities?

In a way, I think that the Health Board has done a lot in their clinical area. It's basically been like a garage – you come in, you get fixed and then you leave. But, the part that has always been missing has been prevention. There are all kinds of programs that the communities are getting into, and that is a good thing, but is it enough?

We need an extra push from either the leadership or those who are involved at all levels in the community. Everybody has to promote healthy lifestyles now. We shouldn't be relying on the Health Board. A lot of communities are doing programs on their own instead and this is a blessing for their people who get to do this.

This has been an intensive era of negotiations between the Crees and other levels of government. How would you support the Grand Chief in this area as Deputy Grand Chief?

You have always got to have at least a bit of a critical eye coming from some place because not everything is necessarily black-and-white and if you see red somewhere, you have to ring the bell.

In my own case it is more about having the scrutiny to make sure that we are not signing on to things because the other side tells us that we have to.

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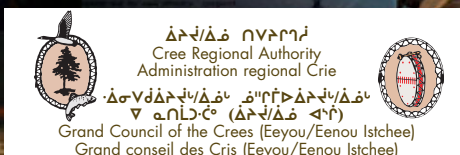
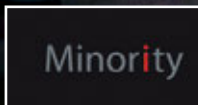
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The *Nation* is turning 20! To commemorate this historic occasion, the *Nation* is embarking on a retrospective countdown to its 20th Anniversary in November 2013. In the next 10 issues, the *Nation* flashback will feature some of the *Nation*'s stories, photos and award winning coverage throughout the years, which will be compiled in a 20th collector's edition issue.



May 9, 2008

The floods return Kashechewan is evacuated for fourth time in four years

By Steve Bonspiel

The troubled northern Ontario Cree community of Kashechewan is dealing with uncertainty once again as several hundred residents had to be evacuated April 25 due to imminent flooding.

Rapidly rising waters caused by the break-up of the ice cover on the Albany River is expected to continue to threaten the community and neighboring Fort Albany well into the spring.

Officials from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources are working with the bands and Emergency Management Ontario to ensure the safety of those at risk, which include the sick, the elderly and small children.

Roughly 600 people were flown to places like Cochrane and Sault Ste. Marie.

"Our first priority is the safety of the people of Kashechewan and other James Bay communities," said Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services Rick Bartolucci.



Kashechewan underwater again.

There is a fear that the increasing water levels could threaten the integrity of the dike that surrounds Kashechewan. If so, emergency plans are being worked on to evacuate the entire community for the fourth time in as many years.

Favorite covers from 2008



20th flashback brought to you by
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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou/Eenou Istchee)
Grand conseil des Cris (Eeyou/Eenou Istchee)

National Aboriginal Day was established to celebrate Canada's First Peoples and our important contributions to Canada.

This past winter and spring our Cree youth undertook a heroic march to emphasize the importance of unity among Aboriginal peoples. It is fitting that we honour the Nishiiyuu walkers for their accomplishments.

They have shown everyone in this country that the energy of our youth can be positive and inspiring. They have inspired Aboriginal people and many Canadians across this country.

This journey reminded us of the importance of protecting our lands for the future generations to come. The rights of aboriginal peoples across the country must be recognized and translated into benefits for all our peoples.

We encourage the youth to continue using their energies to achieve honourable visions for our people and for aboriginal peoples across the country.

Happy Aboriginal Day.

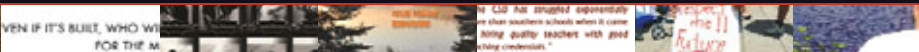
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photo by Donald Nicholls



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"CREE COLLECTIVE DEDUCTIBLE INSURANCE PROGRAM"

A TALK WITH **Abel Rabbitskin- Insurance Liaison Officer**

What is the purpose and intent of the Cree Collective Deductible Insurance Program?

Wachiya. In 1996, CMHC requested to the Crees of James Bay to obtain property insurance coverage for some mortgages (houses). At that time, the Crees had very little information on insurance. It was quite a challenge but the Crees were able to obtain insurance coverage. From the request that is how CCDIP first started out. Our motto is *"Providing adequate insurance coverage for the Cree Nation."*

In the past insurance companies have either denied to cover Cree communities, or charged exorbitant amounts to provide coverage. As you know, there is strength in numbers, and through joining together and having obtained the expertise to deal with insurance companies we are able to leverage together and obtain better conditions and coverage at better prices than could otherwise be obtained if each participant was negotiating on their own.

Today the Cree Collective Deductible Insurance Program insures \$2.3 Billion of Cree assets and the value is growing every year. The participants of CCDIP consists of the entire Cree Nation including all the communities, the Grand Council of the Crees, the Cree Regional Authority, the Board of Compensation, Cree Construction, Air Creebec and other regional and local entities.

What kind of insurance do you provide?

Presently CCDIP deals in the commercial and residential sector. CCDIP deals strictly with the Cree Nations. The types of insurance we provide are: automobile, garage, property, commercial general liability, pollution, umbrella excess, directors' and officers' liability, hull and machinery, protection / indemnity, crime, boiler & machinery and volunteer firefighter accident insurance and any other type of insurances as needed for various specific projects.

What types of insurance claims or incidents are frequent within the Cree Nation?

Unfortunately we have experienced many claims related to residential dwellings in all the Cree communities, the main cause is negligence. We had several kitchen fires where the tenant forgot his or her cooking on the burner. Several fires were by persons who were intoxicated and cooking. We also had a couple of total losses of commercial buildings. Again these could have been prevented. Arson is another cause,

"Providing adequate insurance coverage for the Cree Nation."

which we see in our program. It does not occur frequently, but it is still a major concern. Some fires can be fatal and we have seen lives lost. When there is a loss, the building is sometimes completely ruined and the tenant's contents are destroyed. Overall the entire Cree Nation is affected by the claims.

What impact does the claims experience have in providing insurance coverage to the Cree Nation? Who pays for these damages?

If there are a lot of claims, the insurance companies will increase the premium or could be forced to cancel the policy. The Cree Nation suffers and pays a higher premium. As a Cree Nation, we must stand together and continue to work more proactively on prevention.

How about the private sector, what is CCDIP doing to accommodate the private auto and homeowners?

CCDIP has worked on surveys to gather information and build a profile on the Crees. In the near future, CCDIP will present the proposed Private Auto & Homeowner's insurance to the Cree Nation.

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Rekindle, refresh, renew

Wemindji wellness worker Mickey De Carlo discusses her journey of restoration

As told to Eleanor Cowan

Many First Nations men signed up for World War II because they knew what it was like to have their land taken away. When my dad was a young boy, his father went to war. Fellow soldiers admired him because he had not been forced to help. He'd volunteered. When he returned, he decided to move to Cobourg, Ontario.

My grandfather sold his Aboriginal rights and, with his wife, left their reserve and moved to a beautiful spot on Lake Ontario. He had no idea that though he had been treated with such respect overseas, his son would be bullied with racist slurs in his own country, in peacetime. During this traumatic period for my dad, his mom died, leaving him with a grieving father, both isolated from extended family on the reserve. It was heartbreaking. People need support at fragile times in their lives.

I was born in December 1954, the middle child and only girl amongst five brothers. My hard-working father supported our family all of his life despite his drinking problem. My English mother, also with a strong work ethic, bore a lot of responsibility. Family life was stressful, though less so during the summer months when we played outdoors from morning to night on the sandy beach. We had so much fun swimming in the lake.

There's a memory of a cold winter's day when Mom was begging my father to

stop drinking. I went outside and made a house of snow. I played in my quiet place all day, imagining wonderful plays and stories. I felt so comforted. Mom couldn't afford to separate from my Dad, nor did she dream of talking to others in her community about smart coping strategies. There were no wellness centres in those days. Dad was only 54 when he died in his sleep – an alcohol-related death. My mother encouraged us. She said that despite our financial situation, we could become anything we wanted.

One day when I was in Grade 7, I selected a book by First Nations poet E. Pauline Johnson from the school library. I memorized *The Cattle Thief* and recited the poem in class to a standing ovation. My teacher and classmates celebrated my speaking talent. That was a first step in reclaiming my identity as a First Nations woman.

The second occurred one afternoon at home as I listened to a CBC radio interview of Billy Diamond, a negotiator of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. Deeply impressed with the history he shared, I ran all the way to the bookstore for *Chief: The Fearless Vision of Billy Diamond*, Roy MacGregor's book, which had a profound effect on me.

One day, again at the library, I read *I Heard the Owl Call My Name*, by writer Margaret Craven. That novel cinched it for me. No wonder I became a literacy

teacher after I completed an Honours B.A. in Indigenous Studies at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario. On days off, I volunteered to teach in a prison program.

One day in 1999, as a facilitator at a men's conference, I asked the men to decorate masks to express how they see themselves. In attendance was Edward Georgekish, who asked me to come to Wemindji. It was not an idle request. He meant it.

Though I had a full-time job in Peterborough, four children and two grandchildren on the way, I accepted. I felt this was supposed to happen.

My husband of 40 years, Pastor Randy de Carlo, has always given me his full support and together we moved to Wemindji and set up a wellness centre. We fell in love with the children. They came to our trailer, the first wellness centre, and the fun began.

On one occasion the youth hosted a play narrated entirely in the Cree language. It began with a wedding and was followed by a walking-out ceremony. A young girl dressed in a moose-hide dress walked out of her tent accompanied by her mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She carried a teapot and an axe. Next was a fishing expedition and the narrator explained the proper way to net fish as a canoe was rowed on stage. Our opening night was sold out!



Mickey and Linda Stewart



Mickey's Satus Card



Mickey and Randy - 40th wedding anniversary

We added a Young Mom's Group, a Boy's Club and an Elders' Group. One time I drew an idea for a quilt. Each square featured a traditional design specific to Cree culture – such as a winter mitten, a snowshoe, a fir tree and a carving knife. When it was finished, we stood back in amazement. Cree history is beautiful!

I found sisters here. I cherish the memory of Shirley Otter. She was tremendously community-minded and we had so much fun working together. I'm grateful for my good-humoured colleagues, Linda Stewart and Angela Georgekish. Stella Lameboy's support has been crucial to all of us at the Wellness Centre as was Dorothy Stewart's encouragement in the past.

In 1986, Bill C-31 was passed. It states that Aboriginal status cannot be lost. I realized that my place as a First Nations woman would be restored to me. On the day I received my card in the mail, I held the small plastic square with my picture on it, and two generations of alienation were swept away the instant I



Mickey and her family

read the word "Indian" next to my name, Michaela Ann.

My restoration was complete. I returned to school. I did a two-year distance-learning course followed by a Bachelor of Social Work degree.

Just as much as art and education have been central to my story, so has the theme of restoration.

Sometimes, I imagine my dad and grandfather smiling proudly about where my brothers and I are today.



Élisabeth Larouche

Élisabeth Larouche
Ministre déléguée aux Affaires autochtones
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Députée d'Abitibi-Est

Chaque année, le 21 juin marque la Journée nationale des Autochtones. Quel moment opportun d'afficher votre fierté envers vos racines!

C'est également l'occasion pour moi de vous transmettre mes vœux les plus chaleureux. Votre contribution a façonné le Québec, d'hier à aujourd'hui, et vous manifestez ouvertement votre intention de jouer un rôle plus significatif pour bâtir le Québec de demain. Je vous assure de mon soutien dans cette ascension vers une pleine reconnaissance de votre apport et vers un rayonnement accru de vos coutumes, langues et cultures.

Nous gagnons à consolider nos relations et à développer une complicité grandissante.

Every year, June 21 marks National Aboriginal Day — an ideal time to show your pride in your roots!

This is also an occasion for me to extend my warmest wishes. Your contribution has shaped Québec from its early days to today, and you are clearly showing your intention to play a more significant role in building the Québec of tomorrow. You can be assured of my support in achieving full recognition of your contributions and increased awareness of your customs, languages, and cultures.

We have everything to gain in strengthening our relations and enhancing our complicity.

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Cree School Board

Summer Literacy Camp!

The Cree School Board and Frontier College are pleased to announce this year's first Summer Literacy Camp in all 9 communities. Offered to parents and students at no cost it also includes snacks and lunches.

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Mohawk Girls wraps production

Story by Will Nicholls



The days when filmmaker Tracey Deer ran around the Mohawk community of Kahnawake with a camcorder in hand and her friends and family served as the production crew seem very far off.

Deer has just finished production on *Mohawk Girls*, her new dramatic comedy series. Filmed in Kahnawake, *Mohawk Girls* features a cast of numerous locals as well as Native actors from across Canada.

The television series follows four young women navigating life's ups and downs as they try to find their place in their community while highlighting the politics of love on a rez.

A rarity in the film world as a Native female director, Deer said the series is essentially about her family, friends and herself. So the days of her running around with a camcorder may not be so distant.

Mohawk Girls will be broadcast on APTN in 2014.



Top to bottom: 1. Pepper Obomsawin, Assistant Director Apprentice, getting the background actors ready for their next scene. 2. Glen Gould discusses the script with Deer. 3. *Mohawk Girls* Jenny, Maika, Heather, and Brittany outdoors

Photos courtesy of Rezolution Pictures and Ernest Webb



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Happy Aboriginal Day to all.

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"I TRY TO KEEP MY CULTURE STRONG THROUGH MY ART, AND TO HAVE IT RECOGNIZED IN THIS WAY IS A JOY THAT I COULD ONLY DESCRIBE PROPERLY IN INUKTITUT."

ULAAYU PILURTUUT

Minting Aboriginal art

The new \$5 silver coin will feature the image of an Inuit mother and child

by Jeremy East

Ulaayu Pilurtuut's artwork has long been celebrated across Nunavik, but today the Kuujuaq-based artist has her own reason to celebrate – the immortalization of her art on the face of a newly minted collector's \$5 silver coin.

The coin, which is the first in a new series that will feature contemporary Aboriginal art, will be launched on June 11. The image, entitled, "Mother ice fishing", depicts an Inuit mother celebrating her catch with her baby in her amautik.

Pilurtuut was the guest of honour at the coin's unveiling ceremony in Old Montreal on May 27. "I was very honoured when the Royal Canadian Mint (RCM) asked me to design the artwork for the coin," she said. "I try to keep my culture strong through my art, and to have it recognized in this way is a joy that I could only describe properly in Inuktitut."

Considering the coin to be her greatest artistic achievement, Pilurtuut says that the journey to have her work recognized outside of the North was a challenge. After first showing her work at the 11 Nations exhibit in Montreal in 2012 with other Aboriginal artists, her success has only continued to grow. Pilurtuut says her connections with the 11 Nations group remain as strong as they have ever been, having donated a portion of her earnings from the coin design to the not-



Ulaayu Pilurtuut unveiling her coin
photo by Guy Labissonniere

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for-profit artistic collective. The group unveiled the coin alongside the Mint, following the ceremony with a launch event for their new urban cooperative marketing platform for Aboriginal artists. Based at Marche Bonsecours in Old Montreal, 11 Nations Cultural Space will aim to connect Aboriginal artists with the contemporary art market.

“Ulaayu’s story is very inspiring to emerging Aboriginal artists,” said

seen and heard so that they can sell their work and be viable.”

St-Louis’ vision for the next three years is to develop the space into an artist-run centre that will be dedicated to the development of emerging Aboriginal artists through education, workshops and exhibition. The space currently showcases the work of 20 visual artists from Quebec’s 11 Nations, including Tim Whiskeychan of Waskaganish. St-Louis says that she and

“This space in Montreal is a platform that people will visit and say ‘I want to learn about Cree culture’ and visit the North,” said St-Louis. “So there is a whole scope of positive social impact when we help our artists. Successful artists develop a healthy cultural identity for a community.”

Although established artists like Pilurttut and Whiskeychan have seen their success grow with their exposure at the 11 Nations Cultural Space, the enterprise has also helped young artists gain a foothold in the industry. For Gage John Lazare of Kahnawake, working with the group has been a life-changing experience.

“I didn’t think I was an artist until she (St-Louis) came into my apartment, took all my art off of the walls and sold it that week,” said Lazare, who plans on hitting Paris to showcase his art later this year. “This is literally bringing nations together through art, and no one is doing that. Artists like Ulaayu are going down in history through the work that is being done here.”

For Pilurttut, going down in history is a humbling experience; one that she thanks 11 Nations and the RCM for aiding her to achieve, and one that she hopes will inspire young Aboriginal artists across Quebec to express their heritage and environment through art. Her coin will be available in limited quantities from the RCM this month, and Ulaayu will design a second coin before the end of the year.



Beatrice Deer performing at the 11 Nations launch event

Nadine St-Louis, Executive Director of 11 Nations. “We want to show the artists that there is support and infrastructure for them to break into the art market. We want these artists to be

the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association (CNACA) are working together to build artistic bridges between Eeyou Istchee and Montreal.

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A hotel room featuring a large bed with a dark headboard and a patterned blanket. A fireplace is visible in the background, and a large window on the right side of the room provides a view of the city. A yellow armchair is positioned near the window.

A cozy living room scene featuring a fireplace with a fire burning inside. To the left of the fireplace, a small table holds two glasses of red wine. The room is warmly lit, creating a comfortable atmosphere.

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The Cree-Naskapi Commission expresses its deepest sympathies on the passing of Elijah Harper and extends its condolences to his family and friends. Elijah Harper, who bridged the Aboriginal peoples and Canadian society, was a dedicated, courageous and humble warrior with a vision for the unity of Aboriginal people and their inclusion in the history and Constitution of Canada. He took his calling with simplicity and humility to advance Aboriginal issues and rights and walked a path that inspired Aboriginal peoples across Canada.



story by Lyle Stewart
photos by Robin June Hood

The Mayan example

The historic battle for justice is winning against all odds



Efraín Ríos Montt in 1990



The absence of despair. The refusal to lose hope. The determination to keep fighting in the face of implacable odds.

These are the characteristics that struck me most about the many Guatemalan refugees I met in the spring of 1990 during a six-week tour of their rudimentary camps in the southern Mexican states of Chiapas and Quintana Roo, and in clandestine hideouts through their country that, at that time, was uneasily trying to end decades of civil war and a campaign of brutal repression against the Indigenous Mayan majority.

I met people in absolute poverty living in shacks built with bamboo stalks and roofed with sheets of corrugated tin. Many had seen their family members, including women and children, slaughtered in the worst imaginable ways. Most had fled north to Mexico through mountains and jungle with little more than the clothes on their back. They were far from their ancestral homeland and their futures looked bleak.

But never did I encounter despair. I did see an amazing level of hope and determination to carry on living, something illustrated by the admirable way these makeshift and traumatized communities had organized their own schools, medical clinics, justice systems and political structures.

The communities I visited – including places called Cineguitas, Las Linares, Maya Balam, Tuchumatan and La Laguna – are all gone now. Their former inhabitants are back home, largely in the western highlands, or Altiplano, of Guatemala after a long peace process and international human-rights intervention helped establish a certain level of safety so that they could return. But they are still seeking justice for the genocidal repression they faced under the right-wing dictatorships of the Ladino (Spanish-descended) minority that still controls most of the country's wealth, land and political power.

As I wrote in this space a few weeks ago, the former military dictator, General José Efraín Ríos Montt, was facing charges of genocide and crimes against humanity for his regime's scorched-earth campaign against the Maya in 1982-83. That period was the bloodiest of the 30-year conflict, as his army and clandestine paramilitary death squads destroyed 440 Mayan villages, committed hundreds of massacres, and

drove 1.5 million people into exile or into hiding within Guatemala.

Well, on May 10, a Guatemalan tribunal found Ríos Montt guilty of the charges and sentenced him to 50 years in prison for genocide, and a further 30 years for crimes against humanity, specifically for the deaths of 1,771 Maya-Ixil peasants between March 1982 and August 1983

enemies of the state and were also victims of racism, considered an inferior race... The violent acts against the Ixils were not spontaneous. They were planned beforehand." Judge Yasmín Barrios referred to evidence that the army exterminated 5.5% of the Ixil people.

"IT IS THE FIRST TIME ANYONE HAS BEEN CALLED TO ACCOUNT FOR ANY OF THE MANY GENOCIDES AGAINST INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ANYWHERE IN THE AMERICAS."

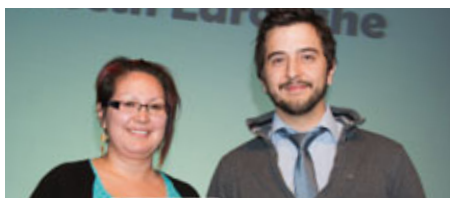
as part of his counter-insurgency campaign. It is the first time anyone has been called to account for any of the many genocides against Indigenous peoples anywhere in the Americas. It is an historic moment.

The Major Crimes Tribunal A found that, "The Ixils were considered public

The conviction followed a six-week trial, which included the testimony of over 90 witnesses as well as dozens of forensic and other experts, and the presentation of documentary, forensic and other evidence. A week after the verdict, the trial court issued a 718-

The *Fondation de l'Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue* and the *Corporation de développement de l'enseignement supérieur de la Vallée-de-l'Or* recognized five Aboriginal students as recipients of academic scholarships.

Congratulations to these UQAT students for the excellence of their academic record, their involvement in the community and their courage in returning to school.



Mr. Frédérique Beauchamp representing Élizabéth Larouche, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs - First Peoples Scholarship awarded to Ms. Rachel Etapp, a student in the Certificate in Human Resources Management.



Pauline Lameboy, student in the Certificate in Human Resources Management program, receives her scholarship from Ms. Léonie Tremblay, representing Agnico-Eagle, the scholarship donor.



Ms. Lisa Gagné, student in the Bachelor of Social Work program, and recipient of a scholarship established in Mr. Oriel-Riopel's memory, with Mr. Vincent Rousson, director of the UQAT campus in Val-d'Or, Mrs. Germaine Riopel, Caroline Riopel and Mr. Simon Gaivin, director of the Fondation de l'UQAT, representing the donor.



Mr. Jacob Ottereyes and Ms. Cindy Neeposh, students in the Certificate in Management and Regional Development program, receive their scholarships from Mr. Vincent Rousson, director of the UQAT campus in Val-d'Or.



Mr. Roger Lacroix, student in the Certificate in Aboriginal Studies program, receives his scholarship from Mr. Robert Lamothe of Construction Pépin et Fortin and from Mr. Marcel Jolicoeur of Génivar.

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According to an observer in the courtroom from Lawyers Without Borders Canada, Brendan Brock, the guilty verdict was a moment of high drama. “We are going to do the following,” announced Judge Barrios, who had faced numerous death threats during the trial. “We (the judge and clerks) are going to stay seated and wait for the national police and penitentiary authorities to take away the accused.”

Recounts Brock: “The Maya Ixil victims were in shock, not knowing whether or not to clap and hardly believing that Guatemala’s poor, disenfranchised Indigenous people had held the elite class responsible for atrocities committed against them. Many of the women were crying and hugging each other. It had been an emotionally grueling battle. When Rios Montt was finally taken to prison, the crowd turned and applauded the victims and witnesses causing further tears. The victims of this genocide have fought long and hard to see justice in Guatemala, recounting unspeakable horrors inflicted upon themselves, their families and their communities. It was an incredibly emotional scene.”

On June 6, the Constitutional Court finally ruled that the lower court must rehear all evidence presented after April 19, when the procedural mistake supposedly occurred. It's still a major victory considering that Rios Montt's lawyers had appealed to the Guatemalan Supreme Court, demanding that the entire process be quashed because of a post-war amnesty for abuses committed during the 1960-1996 civil war. The court refused, ruling that the amnesty does not extend to genocide and crimes against humanity.

International solidarity may have been and will continue to be key to this historic legal battle, which in itself is a victory because civil procedures usually produce fewer corpses than do civil wars. But it could never have happened without the determination of the victims themselves to seek justice. They never gave into despair. They continued to hope when there appeared to be no hope. And they still fought when it appeared the fight was lost.

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Recrutement

Pour le programme de policiers conventionnels

Le Service de police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM) est actuellement à la recherche de candidats potentiels pour prendre part au processus de recrutement dans le cadre du programme de policiers conventionnels.

Pour être admissible, vous devez, entre autres :

- être d'origine autochtone ou appartenir à une minorité visible ou ethnique;
- répondre aux critères de scolarité suivants : détenir un baccalauréat, un diplôme d'études collégiales technique (3 ans) ou un diplôme d'études collégiales préuniversitaire (2 ans) et 30 crédits universitaires.

Les personnes qui répondent aux critères d'admissibilité seront invitées à assister à une rencontre d'information sur le processus d'évaluation et de sélection.

Le programme de policiers conventionnels vise à favoriser une meilleure représentativité de la population montréalaise au sein du personnel du SPVM.

INFORMATION :

www.spvm.qc.ca (onglet Carrières)

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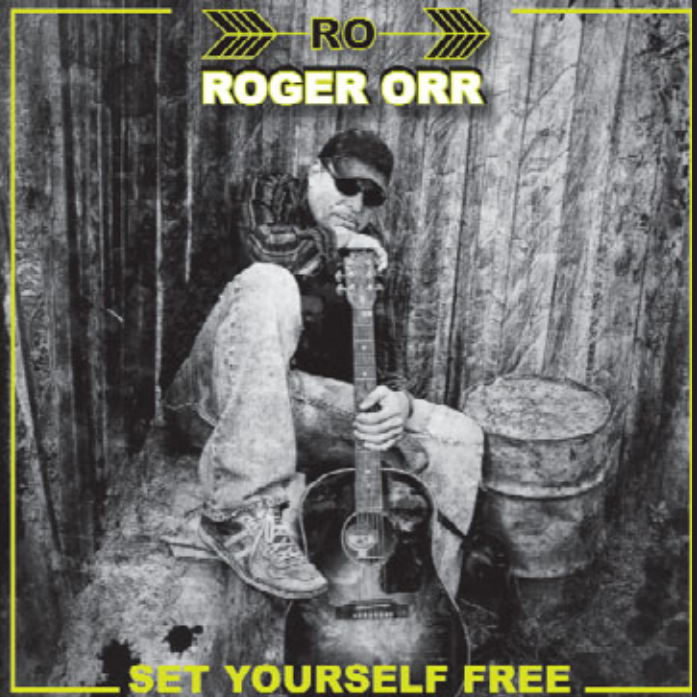


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A musical family

A first-hand account of The Smalls' music history

by Doris Moore

The origins of music in our family stem from the first generation on our mother Clara's side. I was told, that our grandfather, Sidney Namagoose from Waskaganish, was musically gifted, and thus passed on this talent to other members of the family. Aunt Nellie and Uncle Lawrence also played accordion and guitar.

George, the eldest of my brothers, was the first to learn to play guitar. He then taught my other brothers. I recall that a fiddle was also purchased for George. When brother Glen was a young boy, he would run up to our mother with a guitar and ask her to "sing, mommy, sing". Although our mother only knew a few chords, Glen would stand in front of her and she would sing to him. This was the root of music in our immediate family.

George and Glen were the first perform, and they played in a band with the Cheechoo boys. Our parents purchased an acoustic guitar and a set of drums for

the two. When the younger brothers became teens, they formed their first family band and called themselves Hidden Glory. Later there were other names like Crystal Blue, the Honkers and the Midnight Ramblers.

Today they are known as The Smalls within the community of Moosonee and in the region. The Smalls all played by ear, were self-taught, unique and each of them gifted musically. A long time ago, they used a battery-operated gramophone to listen to 45s, 78s and LPs. They practiced listening to these vinyl records for many long hours until the batteries went dead, as we didn't have power back then. Our mother would eventually get tired, and yell, in Cree, from downstairs, "Quit playing that Maggie Mae now!"

It was in the summer, when our Dad would be tree planting, that the boys had the opportunity to purchase their electric guitars. Their style of music was

rock, country rock and later gospel music and gospel rock. Their musical influences included artists like the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Eagles, CCR, Kiss, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Alice Cooper, Van Morrison, Rod Stewart and Eric Clapton, plus various country music stars.

Glen was always the lead singer. One time I recall my mother asking me, "Let's go and listen to them play." So we went to the hall and stood by the side doors to listen. I also recall us standing there with my two youngest brothers, who were probably two and three at the time, listening to 10-year-old Ricky's singing debut. He sang the Ringo Starr song Down and Out. I recall our mother smile as we stood there listening. Today, if she were to hear Ricky singing gospel she would beam with pride at his achievements.

Early in their career they would play at teen dances and public functions. The dances would be full with teens twisting,

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jiving and waltzing to their music at Miswaynikan Hall. At the first dance they organized, admission was \$2; today, I believe it is about \$20. Other family players include Peter, Douglas and Willard. George, Wayne, Willie (a.k.a. One Beat Willie) and the late Stewart played instruments. They played at all our family weddings and still do. Other functions they played at included wet dances, talent shows and special community events. Later, Clarence Luttit joined the band as a fiddle player; he was affectionately known as the "Rocking Grandpa"

In 1997, they changed their style of music to gospel rock, practicing and recording music in my brother Doug's basement. This was before my brother Stewart passed away. Their plan was to play at gospel nights held in the community. Stewart's favourite gospel song was As A Warrior Goes, which was sung at his funeral.

At the "Gathering of Our People" event, a tribute of gospel music was dedicated to the memory of Stewart, whose

guitar was placed on stage. Although his instrument was silent, the singing was inspirational, peaceful and uplifting to our soul. My sister Greta sings hymns in Cree and gospel songs. Her voice is beautiful and she is my dad's favourite singer. Her singing soothes his soul and gives him inspirational strength.

Now the music has been passed on to the younger generation. Nolan Jolly has a band called RedEye, and he sings his heart and soul out to his audience. Ethan plays lead guitar in his three-man band, while Jonathan sings and writes punk rock for his band Pony. Jonathan can also belt out Johnny Cash tunes to an appreciative crowd. Warren still plays now and again with his band. Stan and his business partner, Jay, own Solstice Productions, a mobile DJ service for dances and other socials. Leonard plays drums for the Moose Factory Pentecostal Youth group. Tracey also sings at times when requested, while her younger sister, Jessica, sings gospel songs while attending the Calvary Outreach church youth group in

Moosonee. I recently heard Jenna sing a Wynona Judd tune on her Grandpa's 83rd birthday. Yes you guessed it, she sang Grandpa Tell Me 'Bout the Good Old Days. And Melvin, our youngest singer, is on YouTube.

The two generations have combined their musical talents and formed a band called Pilot Biscuits, which is made up of Nolan, Glen, Kimble McComb and Greg Spence. This should be interesting, but I haven't heard them personally yet. I have always enjoyed their music, to me, my brothers are special and I love them dearly.

Now a third generation has started, with Riley (grandson to Stewart and Kathy) and Jadon (grandson to Glen and Judy) as guitar and fiddle players.

Because of my mother's inspiration and love of music, it has let The Smalls share their music with our community and other places. My brothers' music and this article is a tribute to my mother's memory.



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UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

On a wing and a prayer

by Xavier Kataquapit

On May 31, a terrible helicopter accident near the airport in Moosonee took the lives of four dedicated healthcare heroes for the Ontario James Bay First Nations. All First Nations are very grateful for the hard work and dedication of flight and paramedic crews that service remote Native communities all across Canada. In particular, we give thanks and honour the memories of the four Ornge Ontario air ambulance service staff members who lost their lives. They were Capt. Don Filliter (Skead, ON), First Officer Jacques Dupuy (Otterburn Park, QC), Primary Care Flight Paramedic Dustin Dagenais (Moose Factory) and Primary Care Flight Paramedic Chris Snowball (Burlington, ON).

Perhaps it will take some time to understand what happened that fateful night as the 30-year-old helicopter took off from Moosonee airport shortly after midnight only to crash into the forest moments into flight. Often, early reports in aircraft accidents tend to place the blame on human error; but there is so much to consider and it will take time to determine exactly what happened. Whatever the cause, we can only imagine the grief and sadness that all the families and friends of those who perished are feeling and will continue to experience for many years to come.

We owe it to all the families of those brave souls who lost their lives to be supported in the short and long term. We must ensure that their needs emotionally and financially are taken care of in an effort to assist all the families who have lost so much with the passing of their loved ones. We often take for granted the professionals in high-risk positions who service our First Nations. These pilots, paramedics, doctors and nurses fly in and out of Native communities to care for our people every day, in all kinds of weather, all across this country. We need to remember the efforts and risks they take on our behalf.

Regretfully, part of the reason we need to put these professionals in positions of risk is that our health-care system is not properly supported. Federal, provincial and all First Nation governments should be making sure that our health-care system adequately funds doctors, nurses and access to specialists all over this country – and that includes remote communities.

I hear so much talk about how our health-care system is failing us. At the same time I see that governments are allowing more private healthcare corporations to operate in Canada and I see less commitment being made to our great national system. We need to make health care, education and senior care

major priorities in this country again and then we will see the results we deserve as a wealthy first-world nation.

I was born and raised in Attawapiskat where, although there was a hospital, we didn't have a full-time doctor. The nurses did a fantastic job but much of the time it was necessary to fly patients out of the community to receive medical care in the south. In this day and age we should have the best health-care system in the world so that everybody has fair access to medical care and follow-up. Right now, remote First Nations are very much in third-world status when it comes to medical care because we do not have full-time doctors on-site and the necessary equipment to service our people for most health-care needs. This has to change.

Why is it that we can find billions of dollars to go to war over oil in foreign countries and risk the lives of our military men and women, but we don't commit to doing a good job at funding health care, education and senior care? Those billions we are using to kill and maim people in other countries could be spent more wisely on helping our own people here in Canada.

We should be training more doctors and other health-care professionals and providing direction for them to service the north in a big way. We need to put much more money and time into developing more health-care services everywhere across Canada. This will be money well spent and would mean that there would be less risk for people considering that they could receive most medical care in their own community hospitals rather than have to be flown out so often.

Big health insurance companies in the United States continually have their eyes on our health-care system and their mouths are watering to turn Canada into the multi-tiered pay-as-you-go situation that people have to deal with south of our border. We need to remember that we are different when it comes to caring for our people and we need to make sure not to be bullied, pressured or tricked into letting our healthcare system die a death of a thousand cuts. Too many lives depend on our commitment to a first-rate, publicly funded, universal and accessible health care for all Canadians. No matter where they live.

Making that commitment would be a fitting memorial to Capt. Filliter, First Officer Dupuy, Primary Care Flight Paramedic Dagenais and Primary Care Flight Paramedic Snowball.



The Mistassini Hostels have been added to Schedule F of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (“IRSS Agreement”) for the period of September 1, 1971 to June 30, 1978.

To all who resided at the Mistassini Hostels in Northern Quebec between September 1, 1971 and June 30, 1978

BE ADVISED that the Mistassini Hostels have been added to the list of “Indian Residential Schools” under the IRSS Agreement for the period of September 1, 1971 to June 30, 1978. Justice Rolland of the Superior Court of Justice has ordered that former residents of the Mistassini Hostels who resided there during the period of September 1, 1971 to June 30, 1978 are eligible to apply for compensation in the form of a Common Experience Payment (CEP). As well, those former residents who suffered sexual and/or serious physical abuses, or other abuses that caused serious psychological effects while at these hostels, may apply for additional compensation under the Independent Assessment Process (IAP).

All **CEP** applications relating to the Mistassini Hostels must be filed **on or before September 2, 2013**. All **IAP** applications

relating to the Mistassini Hostels filed **on or before September 2, 2013** will be considered to have been received by September 19, 2012.

This Notice extends only to applications relating to residence at the Mistassini Hostels. ***It does not alter the existing deadlines under the IRSS Agreement in place for other eligible Indian Residential Schools.***

For more information on both processes, please call toll free, 1.866.879.4913, or go to www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca to read the Settlement Agreement and other Court approved notices, or write to Residential Schools Settlement, Suite 3-505, 133 Weber Street North, Waterloo, Ontario N2J 3G9. The IRS Crisis Line (1.866.925.4419) provides immediate and culturally appropriate counselling support to former students who are experiencing distress.

For more information call 1.866.879.4913 or visit www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca.

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Montreal Children's Library is planning its annual programming for the 9th edition of Fun in the Sun at Cabot Square Park and would like to invite First Nation performers or educators to share their rich cultural heritage with groups of 3-5 year olds to represent and reinforce the positive sides of our people of First Nations. We are looking for interactive performers or craft workshops to be part of our activities from the 9th of July to the 8th of August 2013. The available days to fill are Tue July 31, Wed. July 10, 24 and 30, performance time 10:30-11:30am. Thank you!

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Meetings in Mistissini: Alcoholics Anonymous, Tuesday's Hope Meeting, are at 7PM at the Mamou-Wechidodow Building Amisk Street. **Alanon Meetings** are on Tuesdays as well at 7PM at the Mamou-Wechidodow Building Amisk Street. **Alateen Meetings** are on Mondays at 3:30PM at the Reception Centre 282 Main Street. These meetings are all open meetings.

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(www.kidshelpphone.ca)

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Missing Children's Network: They'll help you find kids who have run away or disappeared.

514-843-4333

(www.enfant-retourquebec.ca)

Drug Addiction help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.drogue-aidereference.qc.ca)

Gambling Addiction help and reference: 1-800-265-2626

(www.info-reference.qc.ca)

S.O.S. Conjugal Violence:

1-800-363-9010

(www.sosviolenceconjugale.com)

Health and Sexuality Resources Center: 1-888-855-7432 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) (www.criss.org)

Gay Helpline: 1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal: 1-866-403-4688

(www.nwsm.info)

Suicide Action Québec:

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Residential School Survivors: A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources

Concordia University, Montreal:

The Centre for Native Education has changed its name to the Aboriginal Student Resource Centre (ASRC). The new name is inclusive of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis students the centre serves and recognizes its role as a resource for the Concordia community. For any further details contact: aboriginalcentre@concordia.ca or 514-848-2424 ext. 7327.

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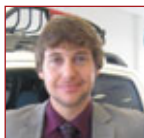


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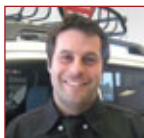


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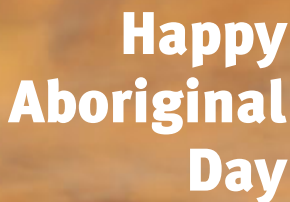
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The Niskamoon Corporation Board of Directors and staff wish everyone a wonderful Aboriginal Day celebration.

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